



6 Week Training Manual

Pairing Intergenerational Discipleship and Camps  
to greatly benefit our Nation for Christ

## The Vision:

Equipping your teenagers to become involved in a local “short term mission trip” where they are trained with this manual as an outline by mature Christians to be able to disciple younger Christians. Using a Christian camp as a catalyst they will spend 6 weeks preparing for camp within these sessions.

Leaders will then take a group of kids/ pre-teens to an outreach camp with the mentality that they will be their cabin leaders, walk alongside them at camp and continue discipleship post camp within the age-appropriate ministry within your church.

## The Why:

We were called “to go and make disciples”. Yet across New Zealand less than 1 out of 10 millennials that grew up attending church can today be defined as resilient disciples<sup>1</sup> and the stats are only looking worse for the next generation

Your chance to turn the tide, is training young leaders for the catalytic missional discipleship opportunity that takes place in the strategic intersection that can be developed between a church, a local school, and the holiday outreach of a Christian Camp.

Barna notes that “the probability of someone embracing Jesus as their Saviour was 32% for those between the age of 5 and 12”<sup>2</sup>. Many of the Outreach Camps across New Zealand report a similar response at their school holiday camps for Year 5- Year 8 students.

Based off the results of the ‘Effective camp research project’ it is shown that Christian camp is also having extremely positive long-term effects on our young people. It was shown that the “camp high” fades but their value in belonging to a church grew, along with their belief that they could turn to Christian friends or adults in times of need. It also showed them to be participating in bible study, prayer, church attendance and conversations with their family about faith.

Evidence from the National Study of Youth and Religion shows that these changes last years after their camp experience. Even more astounding, those who attended Christian camp are over three times more likely to remain religious five years later than those who did not attend<sup>3</sup>.

Camp is such an effective tool for sharing the gospel, growing in unity as a team and for seeing your young people’s lives changed. Imagine being able to meet all the proven strategies of mitigating youth drop out using camp as a “short term mission trip” for your young people to work towards.

In equipping young leaders to participate in these camps and then encouraging them to follow up those children after Camp, where they can continue to disciple them within the age-appropriate Ministry of the church, you too will discover that the gospel is not only good news for the hearer, but the one who shares as well.

1. Barna Research December 4th 2018 - February 15th 2019
2. “Transforming children into Spiritual Champions” page 38 by George barna
3. Sorenson, J. (2021). *The Lasting Impact of Christian Summer Camp*. Building Faith

<https://buildfaith.org/lasting-impact-christian-summer-camp/>

# Contents:

Vision and 'The why'	Page 2
Contents	Page 3
How to run this program	Page 4
Session 1	Page 5-6
Session 2	Page 7-8
Session 3	Page 9-13
Session 4	Page 14-16
Session 5	Page 17-18
Session 6	Page 19-22

Note: Two de-brief sessions for after camp will be sent in due time

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## How to run this program

This program is put together to aid you in preparing your youth to serve at camp. This may be used as a full curriculum or something that you may add or take away from.

### Learning Technique:

This program is all about interaction and conversation. Different techniques to achieve this are:

- Activity Based Learning - doing activities that have specific learning outcomes that create conversation.
- Sharing stories - facilitators sharing stories from their own lives in an open and honest way.

### Session outline:

Sessions should be read before delivery. They include:

- **Checklist-** So you can prepare all you need in advance
- **Learning outcomes-** What we hope to achieve from the session
- **Check in-** To connect back together and to reflect on what we've been thinking about since the last session.
- **Activity Time-** A variety of activities to meet different learning needs.
- **De-brief-** Where the activity really hits home (very important for growth and understanding)
- **Bible study-** Time to dig deeper into the stuff that changes us
- **Discussions-** An opportunity to discuss and explore the topic in a safe environment.
- **Takeaway-** When we reflect on what 'gold nuggets' we are taking away from each session.
- **Homework-** Putting our growth into practice
- **Prayer-** To commit everything over to the Lord and to pray for one another

### Tips:

**Food and space:** Create a space that feels safe so the young people can feel comfortable to share (think about sitting in a circle instead of a classroom setting) Food always helps with making people feel comfortable.

**Prayer:** Spend time as facilitators praying for your team before each session.

**Preparation:** Always read over the session before hand so you know what's in store. Add questions of your own where desired.

**Commitment:** Each session has lots of awesome information for your group. Talk to them about making a commitment to come to each session to best prepare themselves.

## Session 1 - The Local Mission

### **Checklist:**

- Food
- Bucket
- 2 tins of baked beans
- 3 ropes, 15.7m, 5m & 4m (or chalk to draw a circle instead of the longest rope)
- Ball of wool
- Prepared testimony
- Pray for those coming

### **Learning outcomes:**

- Get to know one another
- Working together as a team
- Problem solving

### **Session:**

#### **Introduction: (5 mins)**

Start with some FOOD. Facilitators introduce yourselves.

#### **Activity: Web of connections (5 mins)**

The first person introduces themselves and shares a bit about themselves E.g. "I have a pet cat, or I like to play guitar". This person continues sharing information about themselves until someone has a connection or commonality, they then make a C with their hand and put it on their forehead. The person with the ball of wool can choose to throw the ball (while holding the end of the ball) to the next person. Eventually you will create a web.

#### **Debrief: (2 mins)**

Q: What do you notice has happened?

Two things have happened during this activity, firstly you have gotten to know your team and your leaders better by creating common ground.

Secondly this shows the connection you have to one another as a team, the body of Christ has many parts but when put together it can achieve great things.

#### **Bible Study – (20 mins)**

**(Read together)** Matthew 28:18 - 20

#### **Discussion:**

Q: What stands out to them in the passage?

We were not called to go and get decisions we were called to go and make disciples.

#### **Explanation:**

Share a brief explanation about what "The Local Mission" is all about and why you wanted to run this program. (See the Vision and Why on page 2 for help as you prepare your explanation).

**Expectations:** So, while going on camp may look like the heart of the mission, the true mission involves staying engaged with the young people after camp. Your job is to encourage these young people to come

to the appropriate age ministry at the church following camp and to look to be involved with their ongoing discipleship within that ministry.

Perhaps even more importantly, before camp your role is to be involved in praying for the young people who will come to camp, and in finding a support prayer team that will pray as well. Let them know if they commit to the training and participate as a leader at Camp you are also asking them to commit to being involved with the corresponding age ministry at the Church for a minimum of 3 months following Camp.

Note: Jesus' promise to us at the end of the passage "I am with you always"

**Activity: Team Building Initiative - TOXIC WASTE. (Allow 20 mins including debrief)**

**Instructions:** Put a bucket containing two tins of baked beans in the middle of a circle marked on the ground (suggest a circle with a diameter of 5 metres). Have two ropes sitting outside the circle. One is the length of the diameter of the circle. The second is a metre shorter than the diameter.

Advise the team that they are to imagine the circle is full of toxic waste and they must avoid having any part of them touch down inside it. At the centre the bucket contains a life serum, and it is their job as a team to extract it safely using only the two ropes supplied.

**Debrief**

Q: What did you learn about teamwork from this activity?

Q: How can this activity apply to the Christian life? (Christian's responsibility for planet Earth?)

**Testimony Time: (15 mins)**

Share your testimony of coming to faith in Christ. First a 3-minute version and then a 1-minute version. Have as many as are willing share their 1-minute version. Another way of expressing this is to ask them to share "who is God to them"?

**Homework:**

Prepare a 3 minute and a 1- minute version of your testimony as you will be sharing this throughout the coming weeks. This is important to practise as they may be asked to share their testimony at Camp (only if they are happy to do so)

**What's your takeaway: (3 mins)**

Go around the group and ask each person 'What are you taking away from this session?' Translation: 'What is one thing that has impacted you from this session?'

**Prayer Time:**

Finish with a time of prayer re the Mission. Lead in this and invite them to also pray if they want.

## Session 2 - The Spiritual Battle

### Checklist:

- Food
- Bag of things- small random items from your house (E.g. Pegs, marbles, elastic band etc)
- Log or raised kerb or gutter in parking lot.

### Learning outcomes:

- Teamwork
- Evaluate team issues
- To grow in confidence in sharing testimonies

### Session:

#### **Check in (5 mins)**

Food to start. Bag of things- Ask each team member to grab an item from the bag that describes their week. Take turns briefly sharing why this item relates to them.

Optional: Add another question for fun E.g., Pick an item that describes your personality

#### **Testimonies (12 mins including 2-3 testimonies)**

Q: How was it preparing your testimony?

Q: Did you practise with your family members?

Reminder: The purpose of having your testimony prepared is that you can share it well when a young person asks how you became a Christian. Clarify- you only share this at the camp or Church if you would like to.

Q: Carefully and respectfully ask which two members would like to share their testimony with the group. Share these now. (Remember to respond positively, this can be scary for a lot of people)

#### **Activity: Line-up Log (20 mins including de-brief)**

**Team Building initiative - Purpose:** To evaluate teaming issues, the facilitator should be taking mental or written notes on how the team processes together. Attention should be given to how this initiative is like real life and the working together as the body of Christ.

**Guidelines:** Everyone must fit on the log. If using a gutter, scrunch everyone together and put masking tape near the feet of the end people. Completely reverse your order on the log (mirror image) without anyone stepping off or falling off the log. If a foot or even a toe touches the ground, everyone must go back to the beginning.



## Debrief

Q. Did you succeed? How did you measure your team's success? Remember: *God is more concerned with the process than the product.*

Q. What did you learn about communication?

Q. What value was there in supporting each other?

Q. When someone fell, how did your team respond?

Q. Was it one person falling or the whole team?

Q. What's the difference between focusing on "the one who fell" vs. "the whole team falling"?



## Bible Study - (20 mins)

The Battle – When we engage in the “Great Commission” we are engaging in a battle. One which we can't win in our own strength but one that Jesus has already done all that is needed for ultimate victory.

Read Ephesians 6:10 – 20

Q. Who is the battle with?

Q. What is the context of the battle? (Hint the armours description has some themes identified)

Q. What are we called to do? (Read verses 18-20)

Q. What is Paul's response to the vision of the battle? (Paul asks the Ephesians to pray some specific things for him)

## Homework - Finding a prayer team (5 mins)

Each team member must actively seek 3 people who will commit to praying for/with them regarding this Mission. Give suggestions on who they could ask to be on their prayer team. (Further discussion to be had later as to what the prayer team's role will be)

## Take away: (2 mins)

Everyone shares something they have learned from this session

## Prayer Time

Finish with a time of prayer regarding the Mission. Lead in this and invite them to also pray if they want.



## Session 3 - Being a Disciple

### Checklist:

- Food
- Paper and pens
- Puzzles in envelopes
- **Preparation:** Make copies of broken square puzzles on card (see template attached below). One set for each group of six. Cut the pieces apart. Paperclip each set of pieces together based on their letter. For example, place the four "A" pieces together. Then place one of each letter together in an envelope to be distributed to each group.

### Learning outcomes:

- Teamwork
- To analyse our own behaviour when solving a problem
- Exploring different ways of communicating
- To examine my own current walk with Jesus

### Session:

#### **Check in: (10 mins)**

Start with food. In pairs, ask each other how their week has been and how they went with finding a prayer team.

Going around the room, ask each person to share what their partner said (keep this a secret to begin with). This is a fun way to check in, along with testing everyone's listening skills.

#### **Bible Study: (20 mins)**

Personal Growth – To disciple others you must first be a disciple. Remember, disciple means someone actively following Jesus. How are you currently asking God by His Holy Spirit to help you become more like Jesus?!

There is real value in always having a specific thing that you are asking God's help with. A great place to start is with qualities named for the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

Read Galatians 5:16–26 together.

Q. What are the two forces that are fighting in us?

Q. What should our response be?

On a piece of paper, write out the qualities in verses 22 & 23. On your own, rate each of these qualities out of 10 as to how evident it is in your life.

In pairs share the quality you gave yourself the lowest score for and pray with your partner that God, by his Holy Spirit, will help them to grow in that quality.

#### **Testimony Time: (6-10 mins)**

Ask 2-3 members to share their testimony with the group.

**Activity: (20-25 mins including de-brief)**

Group Size: This activity is designed for groups of 6 people with 5 participants and one facilitator. If you have larger numbers, you may have more than one group. Less than 6 people will require some participants to make more than one square. Each participant gets one set of squares while the 6<sup>th</sup> persons job is to facilitate with your help.

Instructions: Each group should form a small circle so they can work with the squares. Give each group the envelope containing one set of squares. The set of squares are broken down into five sets of pieces, each set being all the pieces labelled by one of the letters A, B, C, D, E. These sets are given to the group, one set per member, in individual envelopes. Do not let the group open the envelope until the instructions are read.

**Activity instructions:** In each envelope there are five sets of pieces of paper for forming squares. When I give the signal to begin, the task of your group is to form five squares of equal size. The task will not be completed until everyone has before him or her a perfect square of the same size as that held by others.

**Rules:**

- No member may speak.
- No member may ask another member for a piece or in any way signal that another person is to give him or her a piece.
- No member may take a piece from another member.
- Members may, however, give their pieces to other members.

**Debrief:**

Q. How did you feel during the exercise? Why?

Q. How many of you were frustrated? Why? How did you solve the communication challenges?

Q. Did anyone mentally drop out after they had completed their square?

Q. Was there a point when the group started to cooperate? What was the cause?

**Principles for effective ministry**

- Each individual must understand the total problem
- Each individual should understand how they contribute toward solving the problem.
- Each individual should be aware of the potential contributions of other people.
- We need to recognize the problems of other individuals, in order to aid them in making their maximum contribution.
- Individuals should recognize others may not use pieces in the way you thought they should.

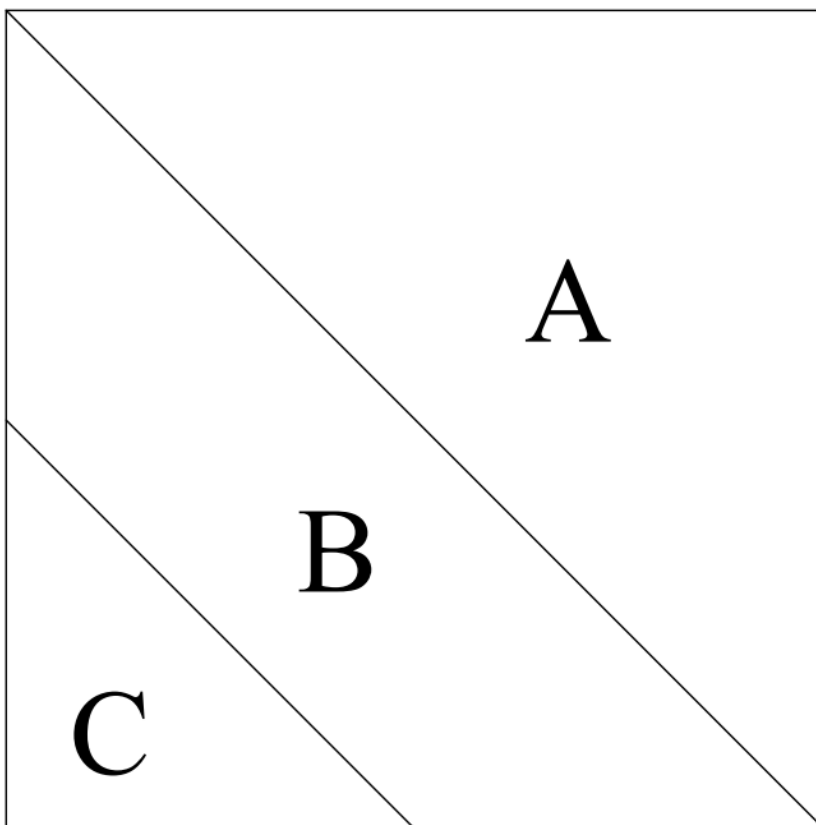
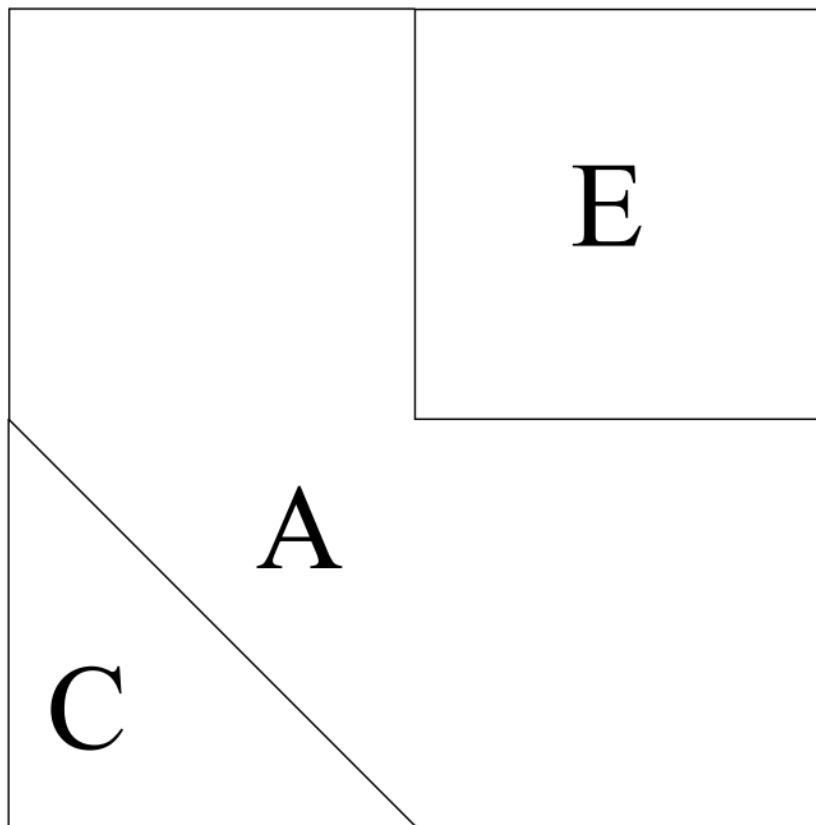
**Homework - sharing my current testimony/personal growth focus (3 mins)**

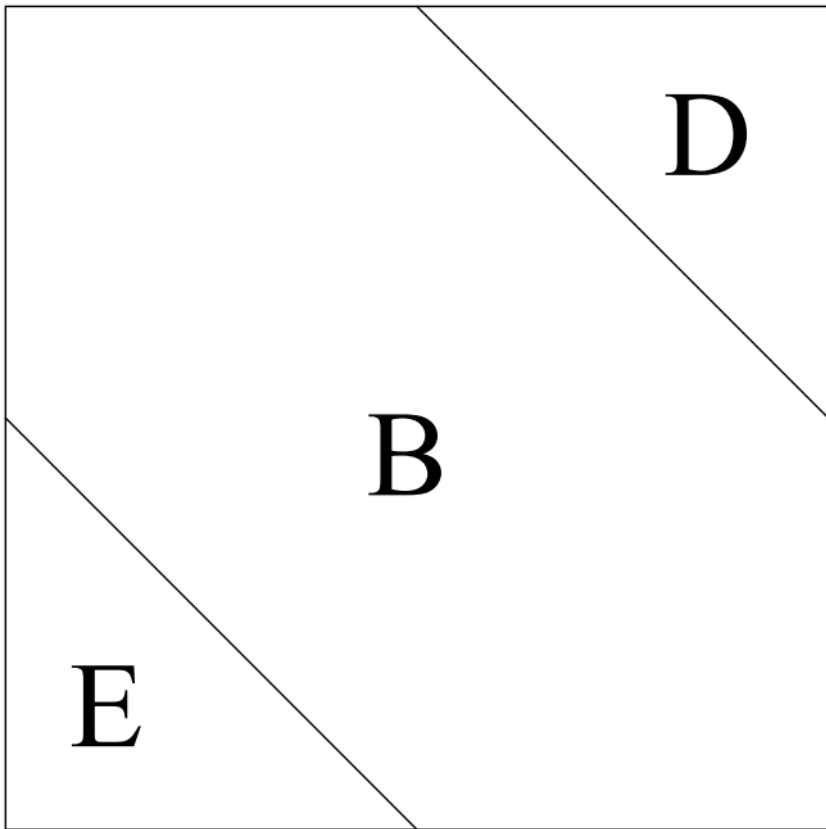
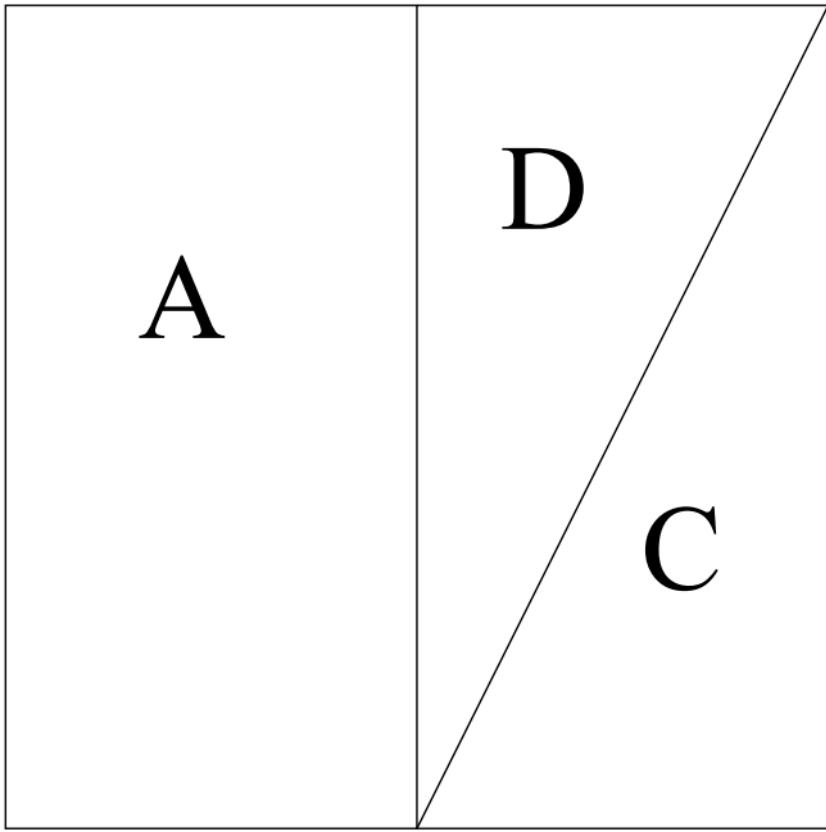
Find at least one person over the next two weeks that you can share your personal growth focus/goal to become more like Christ. If the person you share with is a Christian ask them if they'd be willing to pray with you that God will help you with this focus.

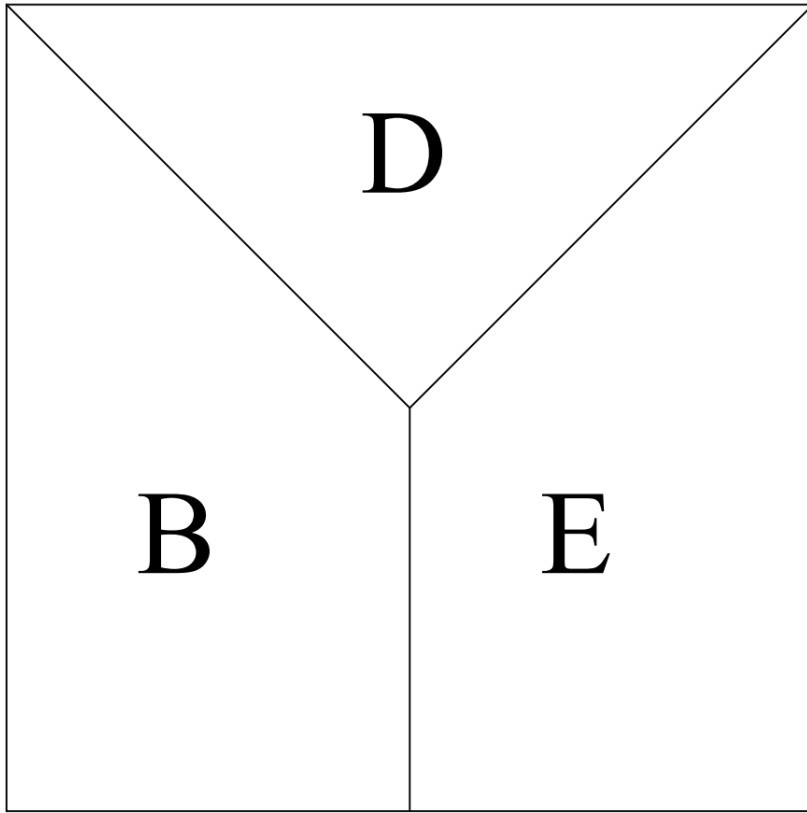
**Take away: (2 mins)**

Everyone shares something that stood out to them in this session

Puzzle template:







## Session 4 - Introducing New Life

### Checklist:

- Food
- Small pieces of paper (enough for 2 pieces each)
- Pens
- Blindfolds (1 per pair)
- Tracts for your leaders to take home (See bottom of lesson)
- Get Netflix movie or God talk link ready

### Learning outcomes:

- Learning how to lead someone to the Lord
- Trusting your teammates
- Gaining knowledge of resources that are available for guidance

### Session:

#### **Check in (5 mins)**

Food time. Hand out 2 small pieces of paper. Each team member (including leaders) writes 2 random facts about themselves- try to write things people don't already know.

Put all the pieces into a hat. One of the leaders reads out the facts and everyone must point to who they think wrote it.

Winner gets bragging rights for the evening.

#### **Check in questions:**

Q. What progress have you made with your specific goal of becoming more like Christ?

Q. Who prayed with you about this?

Q. Did you find an opportunity to share this goal with a friend?

#### **Testimony time: (6-10mins)**

Ask remaining people to share their testimonies with the group

#### **Bible Study - Sharing with someone about how they can become a Christian (20 mins)**

It's always one of our greatest hopes and prayers that at camp some of the children you are leading might ask you how they can become a Christian?

Q. How would you feel if someone asked you the question?

This question can arise in several ways, and you'll want to be ready. Some preliminary thoughts to be aware of:

- 1 Samuel 16:7 ...People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" Only God knows what is truly going on in the heart of anyone you are talking with about becoming a Christian. It's an easy trap to fall into, to imagine that if you say the right thing or they say the right thing, that's what makes a Christian. Your job is simply to share what you know to say, and trust God with the outcome
- Pray as you start sharing. You can do this silently or you might like to say, "I'm so glad you asked me about this, you know I've been praying God would give us the opportunity to talk about this, would you mind if I prayed briefly now that he leads us in our conversation?"

The following Bible Study and questions is intended to uncover what someone believes and if they are willing to put their faith in Christ.

**Read John 3:16 and the Romans Road (Or give the team a chance to read one each)**

**John 3:16**

Q. How big is God's love?

Q. Why don't many people seem to understand or enjoy God's love?

**Romans 3:23** For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death...

Q. What do we mean when we talk about sin?

Q. What is the impact of sin in our world?

Q. What is the impact of sin for us personally?

**Romans 5:8 and Romans 6:23b** ...the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**1 Peter 3:18a and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4** ...Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and he was raised from the dead on the third day

Q. How does Jesus solve our sin problem?

Q. What's the significance of Christ being raised from the dead?

**Romans 10:9 and John 1:12**

Q. What would you say and do in becoming a Christian?

**Activity: Trust run – (15 mins including de-brief)**

Use an existing obstacle course or one you've arranged for the Trust Run. Organise your group into pairs and have one of the pair blind folded. Then advise them that they are to complete the course in three stages (you designate these and choose how difficult you want to make each stage). The sighted partner is responsible to get their partner through safely. Advise them that there will be different rules they need to follow as they progress through the course:

1. Initially they can lead their partner using both touch and voice direction (give some advice on safe touch)
2. In the second stage they are to lead by touch only
3. In the third stage the pair are separated with the sighted partner going to the end of the course and being required to guide their partner by voice only

**Debrief**

Q. Ask each person to share something they appreciated about the person they led or the person leading them.

Q. How did you overcome the challenges you encountered, and did you reach a level of complete trust?

Q. How did it feel being a leader or a follower?

**How to: (10 mins)**

(You choose which, or all of these resources to share with your leaders)

**Tracts:** Having a little booklet to follow along with can be a helpful resource when sharing the gospel with young people, take it home and read it. This is also a great thing to give to your campers.

**Play:** <https://godtalk.nz/equipping/#>

**Play:** The movie Overcomer- Season 1 episode 4 on Netflix in where the principal leads the pupil to the Lord approximately 1:09 – 1:13

**Practise: Practice sharing with someone about how they can become a Christian (8 mins)**

Leaders: Demonstrate with each other how to lead someone to the Lord.

Then everyone else get into pairs and practice on one another.

**Homework**

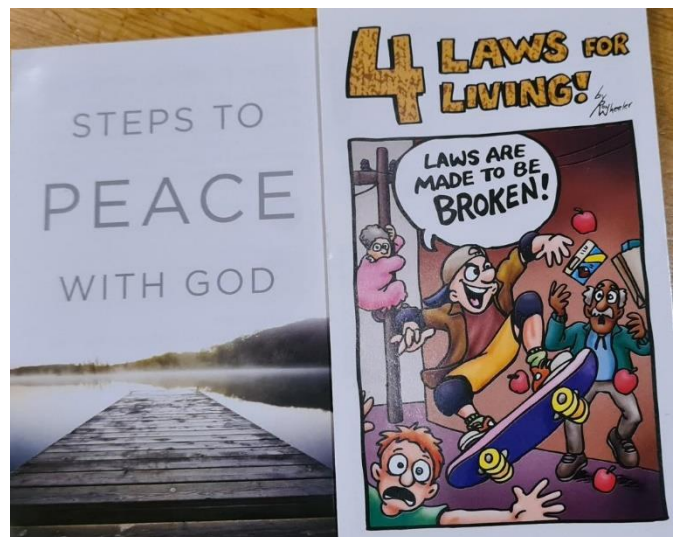
1. Find someone who is willing to let you practice with them
2. Ask God to help you to recognise if He gives you an opportunity to talk with someone about how they can become a Christian.
3. Ask your prayer team to pray about this for you

**Take away: (2 mins)**

What was impactful in this session?

**Finish with a prayer time**

The two tracts pictured are commonly available at Christian bookstores and both cover the 4 steps/laws/questions to cover with someone you are leading to Christ. We recommend you give one of these tracts or similar to each of your trainee leaders so they can either use it or have it as a reference.





## Session 5 – Leading a Bible Study/Question Time

Invite camp leader to join for this session to share on leading the bible study time or an effective de-brief after teaching sessions, whichever the cabin leaders will be asked to do. **NOTE:** If leader can't come, ask them to send answers so you may share them with the group

### **Checklist:**

- Food
- Pieces of wood or carpet squares (big enough to fit two feet on)
- Cones or chalk (for boundary line)

### **Learning outcomes:**

- Learning how to lead an effective bible study/ discussion time
- Trusting your teammates
- To evaluate teaming issues and assist in team bonding. The facilitator should be taking mental or written notes on how the team processes together and whether they come up with a team or independent solution.

### **Session:**

#### **Check in (8 mins)**

Food to start. Partner up and share 'what's on top' (which basically means, what is it that's been most occupying your mind this week)

As a whole group, review homework from session 4 on leading someone to Jesus:

Q: Who was able to practise this on someone they knew?

Q: Who had the opportunity to introduce someone new to Christ?

Q: Have you shared this with your prayer team?

#### **Camp leader (15 mins - Allow time for questions)**

Share three things you'd like your leaders to know when running a devotion or reflective time for their cabin.

If known, share with the group what each session will be spoken on at camp and anything they need to prepare for as follow up.

#### **Bible Study: Psalm 23 (20 mins) Read together.**

#### **Discussion:**

Q: Based on this Psalm how and when does God take care of us?

Q: Why does God care for us like this?

Q: What's been your personal experience of this care?

Q: How could you as a Cabin Leader show this kind of care to those in your Cabin?

Q: What are some of the keys to leading a great devotion/question time?

- Prayer
- Preparation

### Activity: Steppingstones (15 mins including de-brief)

**Objective:** For the team to successfully move their whole team from a Starting Point to an Ending Point. Depending on numbers, teams can be split in two to race one another. Each team receives one fewer stepping stones than the total number of players (Eg. If there are 5 members in your team, you will receive 4 stepping stones)

#### Rules:

- Any team member touching the ground between the Starting Point and Ending Point must start over.
- Someone must be touching each Stepping Stone at all times. If a Stepping Stone is untouched for even an instant, it is immediately removed from the activity. *(Example: A Stepping Stone is tossed to the ground and then stepped on. Because it left that person's grasp when it was tossed, it is lost forever. A correct use would be to place it on the ground and step onto it while having constant touch.)*



Be extremely watchful for untouched Stepping Stones. Don't let any untouched stone remain in use.

#### Debrief:

1. Did your team have a good plan? Was the exercise a success?
2. What value was there in supporting each other?
3. When someone lost a stepping stone, how did your team respond?

#### Homework (3 mins)

1. During your daily bible study/quiet time identify a question that is worth asking from your reading
2. Ask your prayer team to pray about your responsibility to lead a bible study/discussion time

#### Take away: (2 mins)

What stood out in this session?

#### Finish with a prayer time

## Session 6 – Team & Culture

This session has an obvious focus on understanding the value of being part of the TEAM. Please prayerfully consider how you will bring in an understanding of how our culture and backgrounds may leave us, and the Team we are called to lead, feeling misunderstood and on edge. Read the extract at the bottom for inspiration.

### Checklist:

- Food
- Invite someone who's been involved with camp to share
- 25mm x 75mm PVC pipe (drill 12 holes into each end of the pipe)
- 2.5m Long string to be threaded through the holes in the pipe)
- Ball to be balanced on top of the pipe

### Learning outcomes:

- To gather more understanding about leading at camp
- What does a 'team' really mean
- Working through frustrating situations as a team
- Consider how to serve those with different cultures to my own

### Session:

#### **Check in (5 mins)**

Food to start. Everyone must find an item in the room and use it to describe their week so far. Take turns sharing.

#### **As a group review session 5 on Leading a Devotion (5 mins)**

- Q. Have you shared this with your prayer team?
- Q. Whose been able to do some prep for these?
- Q. Any concerns?

#### **Camp leader - If possible, find someone who has recently been a leader at camp who can share (10 mins sharing and 10 mins for questions)**

Ask them to share what they enjoyed most about their experience as a leader at Camp and knowing what they know now, what would they ask a prayer team to pray for them and the kids at camp.

#### **Discussion: Defining a Team- (10 mins)**

- Q. How would you define a 'Team'?
- (After the discussion you may like to offer the following acronym. **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore)
- Q. What Teams will you be a part of for this Mission? Some answers to consider:
    - a. This group in training
    - b. The cabin/team you lead at Camp
    - c. Your Prayer Team
    - d. Gods Team

## **Bible Study: (20 mins)**

### **1 Corinthians 12: 4-7 (Read aloud)**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. <sup>7</sup> A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

Q: Why are spiritual gifts given?

Q: What are spiritual gifts?

A: *Different ways we can serve the Christian family which God through the Spirit has given us the ability to do.*

Q: What are some examples of spiritual gifts?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 12: 11-18 NLT**

<sup>11</sup> It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. <sup>12</sup> The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

<sup>18</sup> But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.

Q: In verses 11-13 there is a picture of unity in diversity – how would you describe this from these verses?

Q: What would it be like in a team if everyone wanted to be leaders? Or if everyone wanted to be followers?

Q: What would it be like if everyone had the same thoughts?

Q: Do you think that there is part of the body who has no value or usefulness?

### **Activity: Ball and String - (20 mins)**

**Objective:** For the team to successfully lift the pipe up, using only the strings that are attached, while balancing the ball on top of the pipe; Then moving the balanced ball from a starting point to an ending point across the room.

#### **Rules:**

Depending on the number of team members, each member needs to hold one or more strings by the knot at the end of the string.

- Nothing can be moved (chairs, tables, etc.) as they manoeuvre from the starting point to the ending point. If the team encounters an obstacle, they need to process how to overcome it without moving it.
- If the ball is dropped, they must start again from the starting point. The team will be given a few minutes to discuss their strategy before they begin. They must share their strategy with the facilitator along with how many 'drops' they are going to allow themselves.

- The team can re-examine their goal about the number of 'drops' they will allow themselves after they have returned to the starting point after unsuccessfully meeting their first goal. (*This is not to be shared with the team until the facilitator is ready to have the team re-examine their goal.*)

(The facilitator should be taking mental or written notes on how the team processes together. Attention should be given to how this initiative is like real life and the working together as the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27))



**Debrief:**

- Q. What was the secret of moving the ball from point A to point B without dropping?
- Q. Did your team succeed or fail? How did your team respond to dropping the ball?
- Q. Who took charge during the exercise? Did anyone get left out in the process?
- Q. Did you feel that your original goals and limits were realistic or unrealistic?
- Q. How did the team do in terms of communication? Problem solving? Celebrating?
- Q. How can you apply these lessons learned to your upcoming camp/mission?

**Take away: (2 mins)**

What was most impactful in this session?

**Finish with a prayer time**

The following extract is from International Teams team leader training, contemplate the following and think about how your team are affected by culture.

**International Teams NZ, Team Leader Training Workshop Manual, pg 57-58, 2019 ed.**

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Whilst this mission trip is in NZ many of the children who attend Camps around Aotearoa come from radically different home settings not to mention different cultures than the young leaders you are training. With that in mind we share the following - Short-term mission projects are emotionally intense, physically

exhausting, and relationally demanding experiences. Add to this an unfamiliar environment along with language limitations and you realize the challenge of preparing people for cross-cultural ministry.

ITeams' Team Leader Training devotes an entire section to Cross-Cultural Ministry Training to help you maximize your team's effectiveness while serving in another culture and to minimize potential conflicts among team members because not everyone responds to culture stress in the same way.

Reasons for Providing Cultural Training

- Developing an awareness of your own value biases brings an increased sensitivity to others and helps you maintain the attitude and position of learner/servant.
- Understanding cultural differences enables you to effectively enter the culture you have been called to minister in.
- Applying biblical principles of incarnational ministry and relationships prevents many of the potential conflicts and misunderstandings.

Unpacking the Baggage

We all bring our own cultural baggage with us when we travel abroad. It may never get tagged or checked at the gate and goes virtually undetected by the airport security— but it travels with us none the less. Conflicts arise when people attribute moral superiority to their own personal behaviour and judge others as flawed or inferior.

The difficulty for the trainer is bringing this level of self-awareness to the surface because most people believe they are unaffected by cultural bias and ethnocentricity.

**Key to preparing people for cross-cultural ministry is to instil within them a commitment to adopt the Christ-like model of Learner/Servant.**

Reflect for a moment on the miracle of the incarnation. What did it really mean for the Son of God to *“become flesh and live among us”* (Jn 1:14) Though he was fully God, he was also fully human. Jesus' entire ministry exhibited an attitude and approach of a servant preferring the title “Son of Man”. The incarnation was not simply about *“becoming man”*; it was about serving and sacrificing in order to provide salvation. *Although he existed in the form of God...He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant and being made in human likeness...He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death.* (Phil 2:6-8)

In so many ways, Jesus was the model of a learner/servant. Jesus Christ is our ultimate model for ministry and mission. To follow the example of Christ means loving people enough to be willing to undergo drastic personal reorientation.

How can you instil the incarnational model? Throughout the training process we focus on developing an attitude of a learner/servant. For example, ITeams' #1 rule for Short-Term Teams is *“No Complaining”*. When people commit to taking the focus off themselves, their comforts, and their preferences, it eliminates a majority of the cultural offenses that outsiders commit. The root problem is fighting the tendency to regard oneself as the object of all experience and activity. As a leader, you can help your mission team to become more like Christ by approaching each situation and decision with a selfless attitude. *Cultural training all starts with attitude because self-centeredness is at the heart of ethnocentricity.*

Perhaps we could have shared this at the start of the sessions. The good news is, in many ways you are just starting. Just as you have encouraged your cabin leaders to stay engaged with the youth that come with them to Camp, our prayer is that you too will follow up with these young leaders to encourage them on in this and their own walk with the LORD.